

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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ORAL QUESTION (0-100/82)

with debate pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mr BANGEMANN, Mrs von ALEMANN, Mr IRMER, Mr JÜRGENS,
Mr DONNEZ and Mr GAWRONSKI
to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Dutch Government aid to the textile industry

Since 1975 the Netherlands has been operating a system of sectoral aids which puts the firms of other Member States in the same sectors at a competitive disadvantage.. Only last year the Commission agreed to a subsidy scheme which was the second of its kind for the Dutch wool industry and the fourth of its kind for the cotton and linen industry. According to unrefuted press reports the latest plan proposes FI 65 million (or about DM 59 million) for direct investment subsidies and between FI 150 and 200 million (about DM 136-181 million) for guarantees.

The repetition of these aids makes it clear that they are maintenance subsidies. The Dutch measures are not only contrary to the spirit and letter of the EEC Treaty, but they must also be rejected by reason of the Community framework laid down by the European Community for aids and the supplementary

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guidelines, if the Commission does not want to lose its credibility.

1. Is the Commission aware that the Dutch Government intends to introduce a new scheme of subsidies for that country's textile sector?
2. Does the Commission intend to give its authorization for the Dutch subsidy scheme?